Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_

US History

Source Analysis: Images & Documents

1. What’s the point?

* We do analysis because it is a deeper level of thinking and doing it helps improve our ability to think. Being able to think at a deep level is extremely important to being successful at whatever you pursue.

2. What are we doing? What is analysis?

* We are taking information apart to figure out what it is really about, consider its messages, form our own opinions, and connect new information to previous knowledge.

3. We often focus on analyzing primary sources. What is a primary source?

* A primary source is a text or image created by a participant or eyewitness to the event being discussed or depicted, or it is a text or image created during the time period being studied.

4. What are the different types of sources of information that we try to analyze?

* Primary sources can include:
  + speeches, journal entries, newspaper articles, laws, letters, etc.
  + political cartoons, photographs, paintings, etc.

5. When we are analyzing a source, whether it is an image or a text, what steps should we take?

* Consider the title, date, and creator
* Figure out all of the important details
* Keep track of any questions
* Determine the intended audience and purpose of the source
* Determine the main messages of the source
* Infer the perspective and bias of the source’s creator
* Respond to the source and its creator

6. When analyzing an image, what must we look for?

* People:
  + action
  + facial features
  + body language
  + size: weight & height
  + clothing and accessories
* Scene:
  + people – individuals and groups
  + actions
  + background scenery / geography / location
  + symbols
  + colors / light / dark
  + weather
  + words / captions / quotes / labels